

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite the allowable feature of Claim 2, as noted by the Examiner in paragraphs 6 and 7 of the Office Action. The prior art rejections are therefore believed to be moot.

Concerning the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Claim 2 simply recites that the member formed of a high melting point metal carbide and the member formed of carbon system material both have a rod shaped portion. This is believed to be clear on its face, and is supported in the specification, for example by either the rods 2 or 3A themselves, or their ends. This rejection is therefore traversed and its withdrawal is respectfully requested.

Applicants therefore believe that the present application is in a condition for allowance and respectfully solicit an early notice of allowability.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Norman F. Oblon

Robert T. Pous  
Registration No. 29,099

Customer Number  
**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 06/04)  
RTP/rac